

Program promotes civic engagement

On April 22, finalists from the first phase of the National Civics Bee will match wits on their civics knowledge for a chance to represent Kansas in the national competition in Washington, D.C., later this year.

The contest is part of the National Civics Bee, sponsored by the Overland Park Chamber Foundation and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Civic Trust. The National Civics Bee is a competition encouraging young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. This exciting opportunity extends to students in grades 6, 7 and 8, giving them a unique platform to demonstrate their knowledge of civics.

Middle school students had the opportunity to submit essays on how they believe civic engagement could solve an issue in their community. Community leaders



reviewed the essays and selected the finalists for the live event in late April.

This year, the National Civics Bee expanded its reach to students in 28 states – including Kansas. A three-year, \$4.5 million grant from the Daniels Fund will allow the U.S. Chamber Foundation to scale these Bees to all 50 states by 2026.

"In these challenging times, fostering a deep understanding of civics and government among our young students is of utmost importance," said Hilary Crow, U.S. Chamber Foundation. "The National

Civics Bee provides a unique platform for them to not only showcase their knowledge but also become active and engaged citizens of the future."

"We are excited to participate in this opportunity," said Tracey Osborne Oltjen, President and CEO of the Chamber. "Understanding civics is essential to our ongoing democracy, encouraging engagement with our policy leaders and promoting civil discourse as our community debates difficult issues."

The public is invited to attend the live event that begins at 5:00 p.m. on April 22 at **Johnson County Community College**.



Our Leadership Overland Park class was in Topeka last month for its State Day session.

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[@traceylosborne](https://twitter.com/traceylosborne)



When you want to clone yourself . . .

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We all have days – too many of them – when we need to be two people – one at a meeting and the other at our desk plowing through work. Or, we need four hands to juggle our multiple tasks.

I don't have the magic answer for those days, but we can leverage some tools and cutting-edge technologies to enhance productivity and efficiency. One of these tools is AI. I recently returned from a meeting at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce where we talked about the immense potential of artificial intelligence for businesses of all sizes.

AI is revolutionizing business operations by automating routine tasks, analyzing data, and providing valuable insights to inform decision-making. Businesses can streamline operations, personalize customer experiences and drive innovation.

Bill Jewell, the Chief Information Officer of the U.S. Chamber, described the process of analyzing AI's potential use throughout their departments and the selection of the appropriate artificial intelligence tools to match the tasks. Examples included letter writing, litigation analysis, marketing campaign support, data retention and discovery and deepening corporate insights.

One of the most significant benefits of AI is its ability to automate repetitive tasks,

freeing up valuable time and resources for more strategic work. Whether automating inventory management, processing invoices, or handling customer inquiries, AI-powered systems can perform these tasks faster and more accurately than ever before.

Bill shared an example of a marketing campaign their legal team created with AI, estimated to save staff 25 hours per week, freeing them to focus on creative work and substance rather than repeatedly making the framework. Bill framed AI as a tool to take you from zero or the "blank page" to B- work. You must own your work, fact-check, edit and improve it to an A+ product.

As business leaders, we must select the appropriate tools for our organizations, train and empower our teams to use them, and understand and manage the risk that comes with technology. We're constantly learning and adapting, but just as our Chamber no longer tracks your membership data on index cards, we seek innovation to be more efficient and productive, customizing our services for you.

By embracing AI technologies and fostering a culture of innovation within our organization and community, we're positioning our businesses for long-term success.

I look forward to learning how you're using AI in your business. You can contact me at tosborne@opchamber.org.

Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, April 10 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

[Blue Valley CAPS](#), 7501 West 149th Terrace

At this monthly networking event, make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities, all while enjoying coffee and breakfast items.

Blue Valley CAPS' striking building is the venue for this event, and the Event Host is [Club SciKidz Kansas City](#), which provides academic enrichment experiences demonstrating how science works in the real world by providing activities in veterinary medicine, robotics, forensics and more.

Free for Chamber members.

To register, [click here](#).



SERIES SPONSOR



1 Million Cups

Wednesday, April 24 – 8:45-10:15 a.m.

Overland Park Chamber,
9001 West 110th Street

Join fellow entrepreneurs for Collisions, Connections and Collaborations – an opportunity to connect with an active and engaged community for conversations and viewing of the live 1 Million Cups pitch presentations.

Free to attend, but registration is requested - [click here](#).



OP After Hours

Tuesday, May 15 – 4:30-6:30 p.m.

[Bourgmont Winery](#), 20299 Quivira Road

Enjoy food, wine and conversation in the lovely atmosphere of Bourgmont Winery's tasting room and venue in southern Johnson County. Whether for an afternoon of wine tasting, a wedding or a private function, Bourgmont aims to create memorable experiences for you.

Free to Chamber members.

To register, [click here](#).



SERIES SPONSOR



To register for events, [click here](#).

Lunch & Learn: Employer Childcare Solutions

Friday, April 5 – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

The Chamber joins Raising JoCo to present a program on child-care solutions for employers. The program will feature information on a tax credit for employers to help provide childcare, innovative childcare solutions and the opportunity to talk to professionals about the childcare needs of your employees.

This program is free and lunch will be provided.

To register, [click here](#).



Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 30 – 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

Our local blood supply must increase in order to meet local hospital need. Please donate during this Community Blood Drive at the Overland Park Chamber.

Appointments are strongly recommended; walk-ins are accepted, based on capacity.

To schedule an appointment, [click here](#).



Ribbon cutting celebrations

Celebrate with your fellow members!

April 12 – [Beyond Martial Arts](#), 8910 West 95th Street – 2:30 p.m.

April 15 – [Hillcrest Transitional Housing](#) Thrift Store, 12202 College Boulevard – 11:30 a.m.

April 17 – [OWN, Inc.](#), 8455 College Boulevard – 9:00 a.m.

April 18 – [UrgentVet](#), 13713 Metcalf Avenue – 3:00 p.m.

April 19 – [BODYBAR Pilates](#), 13340 Metcalf Avenue – 12:00 p.m.

May 2 – [OakStar Bank](#), 5841 West 135th Street – 4:00 p.m.

May 16 – [Security Bank of Kansas City](#), 10300 Mastin Street – 3:00 p.m.

May 29 – [Alzheimer's Association](#), 8001 Conser Street, Suite 240 – 4:00 p.m.



Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

A.L. Huber General Contractor

New EDC Investor!

Moira Holland, Director of
Business Development
10770 El Monte Street
Overland Park KS 66211-1450
(913) 341-4880
info@alhuber.com
www.alhuber.com

Contractors - General

Activate-Overland Park

Steve Smith, Operations
Manager
6900 West 119th Street
Overland Park KS 66209
(913) 725-0104
overlandpark@activate.games
www.playactivate.com/kansas-city

Entertainment, Recreation Centers

BODYBAR Pilates

Pam Suarez, Owner
13340 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park KS 66213
(913) 907-0904
southoverlandparkmanager@
bodybarpilates.com
www.bodybarpilates.com
Fitness, Health & Wellness

Bridge Hill Eye

Dr. Matthew Broberg
7325 West 79th Street
Overland Park KS 66204
(816) 533-5336
info@bridgehilleye.com
www.bridgehilleye.com
Optometrists, O.D.

Brinkmann Constructors

New EDC Investor!

Valerie Strickland, Exec. Asst.
11101 Switzer Road, Suite 310
Overland Park KS 66210
(913) 717-9007
www.brinkmannconstructors.com
Contractors-General

Discourse Brewery and Taproom

Matt Britton, Brewer/Owner
7211 West 97th Street
Overland Park KS 66212
(913) 258-5240
info@discoursebrew.com
www.discoursebrew.com
Beverages, Entertainment

DMC Service, Inc.

Karen Crnkovich, President
P.O. Box 158
Olathe KS 66051
(913) 481-0505
service@dmcserviceinc.com
www.dmcserviceinc.com
*Contractors-Mechanical, Plumbing
Contractors*

Endeavor Private Wealth

Brady Franklin, Financial
Advisor
8100 Marty Street
Overland Park KS 66204
(785) 341-8309
brady@endeavorpw.com
www.endeavorpw.com
*Financial Planning Consultants &
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Lewis and Clark Information Exchange

Kemper Tell, Executive Director
8625 College Boulevard, Suite
101
Overland Park KS 66210
(816) 287-8725
www.lacie-hie.com
*Health Care, Non-Profit
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MedOne Pharmacy Benefit Solutions

Laurie Stowe, VP of Account
Management
8400 West 110th Street, Suite
350
Overland Park KS 66210
(563) 235-3922
marketing@medone-rx.com
www.medone-rx.com
Insurance, Pharmacies

Next Level Performers

New EDC Investor!

Scott Holsman, President
7171 West 95th Street, Suite 218
Overland Park KS 66212
(913) 353-8840
scott@nlprecruit.com
www.nlprecruit.com
*Employment Agencies & Services,
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PGA Tour Superstore

- Opening Soon!

Jennifer Manhnio, Marketing
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6621 West 119th Street
Overland Park KS 66209
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Retail

Spectrumware

Jake Barton, Director of Sales &
Marketing
7340 West 21st Street N, Suite
101C
Wichita KS 67205
(316) 721-9788
jbarton@spectrumware.net
www.spectrumware.net
Computer Software & Services

Spyre Group

Patrick Knoelke, Managing
Director, Founder
25055 West Valley Parkway,
Suite 104
Olathe KS 66061
(913) 359-0106
kc-bi@spyregroup.com
www.spyregroup.com
Information Systems, Technology

Victor Simmons Group

Victor Simmons, Independent
Broker
(913) 731-8241
victorsimmonsgroup@gmail.com
*Employee Benefits, Business
Consultants*

Wildwood Outdoor Education Center

Suzanne Wheeler, Development
Director
7095 West 399th Street
La Cygne KS 66040
(913) 738-9067
suzanne@wildwoodctr.org
www.wildwoodctr.org
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Thanks for reinvesting!

MARCH MEMBER RENEWALS

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10-19 Years

3&2 Baseball Club of Johnson
County, Inc.
Crowley Furniture
Davidson Architecture &
Engineering
Delta Dental of Kansas
Harmon Construction, Inc.
Hillcrest Transitional Housing of
Kansas

(continued on the next page)

Reinvested members continued . . .

Nolan Real Estate
Overland Park Wealth
Management
Perspective Architecture +
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SCS Engineers
Talk of the Town Grill &
Bar-Overland Park
Town Square Publications

5-9 Years

Advice & Aid Pregnancy
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Edison District
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Goldfish Swim School
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Mitchell
Mercer-Zimmerman Inc.
Midwest Tinting
Oliver Insurance Agency Inc.
Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile
Rhodes, P.C.
Shamrock Trading Corporation
True Peace Financial Solutions,
LLC

1-4 Years

Blue Nose Aerial Imaging of
Overland Park
Cowell Insurance Services, Inc.
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Park
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Fogel-Anderson Construction
Co.
Flury-Hinderks Insurance
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Overland Park
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Senior Helpers Overland Park
Solutions Digital Consulting
LLC
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City Councilmember Chris Newlin joined the Chamber to help owners Patrick and Christy Copley and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Ellie Mental Health Stilwell-South Overland Park**, 7500 West 160th Street. Ellie offers a comfy, judgment-free zone where you can be authentic, get real about where you're at in your mental health, and receive the compassionate care you deserve.

For more info: (913) 404-5232 or [click here](#).

Leadership

Educate & Elevate Scholarship



May 20 is the deadline to apply for the 2024 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) Educate & Elevate Scholarship.

Created by the 2020 LOP class, the scholarship is intended to help in-need residents of Johnson County gain a professional or technical career by pursuing a degree or technical certificate. The award for 2024 is \$1,000.

For application details, [click here](#).

You can donate to this fund to help those most in need achieve successful careers.

Sponsorships available!



2024 Golf Tournament August 12, 2024

We have many opportunities to promote your company to the business professionals who participate in the Chamber's popular annual Golf Tournament.

Presenting Sponsor	\$12,000
Eagle Sponsor	\$5,000
Awards Reception Sponsor	In-kind or \$3,000
Beverage Carts Sponsor	\$2,500
Birdie Sponsor	\$2,500
Prize Sponsor	\$2,000
Par Sponsor	\$1,000
Soft Drinks Sponsor	In-kind or \$1,000
Lunch Sponsor	Sold!
Hole Sponsors	Sold!

For complete details, contact Alex at
acook@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7603.

LOP class studies state government and education topics

Leadership Overland Park class members learned about state government and education during sessions in March.



State Day was a joint session with Leadership Lenexa, Leadership Northeast, Leadership Olathe, Leadership Overland Park, and Shawnee Tomorrow, and the class heard from many state leaders including Governor Laura Kelly. They also learned from a panel of lobbyists and toured the Capitol Building.

During Education Day, the class toured schools, learn about programs preparing students for careers and heard from a panel of high school superintendents.

Sessions in April focus on regionalism and Johnson County government.



City Councilmember Chris Newlin joined the Chamber to help Dr. John McNeely celebrate a ribbon cutting for [KC Spine and Sport](#), 8663 West 135th Street. After working with professional athletes around the country, Dr. McNeely's goal is to bring the same elite level of chiropractic care to people in Overland Park and the greater Kansas City area. For more info: (913) 766-0054 or [click here](#).



Mayor Curt Skoog and City Councilmembers Melissa Cheatham and Logan Heley joined co-owner Amanda Luiso to celebrate the six-month anniversary of [Discourse Brewing](#), 7211 West 97th Street. Discourse features a beautiful taproom with vaulted ceiling, covered outdoor patio, plenty of TVs for watching sports, trivia nights and frequently visiting food trucks. For more info: (913) 258-5240 or [click here](#).



The Chamber joined other community leaders to help employee-owned [HNTB Corporation](#) celebrate its new Kansas office on the [Aspiria](#) campus.



The Chamber helped Ron Talley, General Manager, and his team celebrate the new expanded location of [Midwest Tinting](#), 10600 Metcalf Avenue. Midwest Tinting has been serving Overland Park since 1975 and held a festive open house to thank the community for its support and loyalty over the years. For more info: (913) 384-2665 or [click here](#).

Click below for event details. Early bird rates until May 1!

Don't miss the garden party of the summer!
fine wine + food • artwork • live music + entertainment • fireworks

benefiting:

**THE ARTS & RECREATION
FOUNDATION
OF OVERLAND PARK**

A GARDEN SOIRÉE
Stems
SIP, SAVOR & BLOOM

at the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

Saturday, June 22 • 7-10pm
Visit stemssoirée.org or scan code for tickets and info!

Driving Economic Success

Building Permits – February 2024

	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools, etc.	Other Commercial	Total
	1	-	33	34
Sq. Feet	3,433	-	13,646	17,079
Value	\$372,895	-	\$12,419,142	\$12,792,037

– City of Overland Park

Unemployment

	Jan. 2024	Dec. 2023	Jan. 2023
Overland Park	2.4%	1.8%	2.5%
Johnson County	2.4%	1.8%	2.5%
KC Metro MSA	2.7%	1.9%	2.8%
State of Kansas	2.8%	2.0%	2.9%

(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)
– Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)
– U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Mayor Curt Skoog delivered his State of the City address in a program presented by the Overland Park Chamber. During his address, Mayor Skoog shared community updates from the past year and considered Overland Park's future quality of life, land use, housing, environment, economic well-being and mobility through the lens of Framework OP, the City's new comprehensive plan.

If you missed the event, watch the online video – [click here](#).

This newsletter is distributed monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, 9001 West 110th Street, Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66210.
(913) 491-3600 | Fax: (913) 491-0393
opcc@opchamber.org | www.opchamber.org

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- [Kansas Gas Service](#)
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- [Spencer Fane LLP](#)
- [The University of Kansas Edwards Campus](#)

To add your name to this list, contact Tracey Osborne Oltjen at (913) 491-3600 or tosborne@opchamber.org.

Looking for meeting space?

Did you know the Chamber building in Corporate Woods offers affordable meeting space for small to large groups?

Whether you're needing a small room for a one-on-one meeting, a large room accommodating up to 85 people or a shaded outside terrace with a firepit, the Chamber has the perfect space for your next corporate gathering.

You'll find more details on our website – [click here](#).



Member News & Events

AdventHealth has named Alan Verrill, MD, president and CEO of [AdventHealth Shawnee Mission](#). Dr. Verrill has been president and CEO of [Advent-Health South Overland Park](#).

[AdventHealth South Overland Park](#) has named [Dallas Purkeypile](#) as president and CEO and [Michèle Jean-François, MD](#), as its chief medical officer.

[Shawnee Mission School District](#) Board of Education selected Dr. Michael Schumacher as the next district superintendent. Currently, Dr. Schumacher serves as Associate Superintendent of Human Resources.

[AdventHealth Sports Park at BluHawk](#) named Greg Jackson its general manager. Jackson's professional background encompasses years of leadership, management, and customer service.

Darrin Smith, Ph.D., has been named associate dean of faculty, research and administration at [Kansas State University Olathe](#).

Eligible businesses can now apply for awards up to \$25,000 to provide employee training through the Workforce Development and Continuing

Education program at [Johnson County Community College](#).

[Olsson](#) has earned a National Recognition Award for exemplary engineering achievement in the American Council of Engineering Companies' 57th annual Engineering Excellence Awards for the rehabilitation of the Bowerstock Dam in Lawrence.

Matthew Hildebrand, O.D. is joining [Drs. Hawks, Besler, Rogers & Stoppel](#).

[Mize CPAs Inc.](#), is the only business (150-499 employees) headquartered in Kansas to earn *USA Today's* Top Workplace distinction and the Great Plains Top Workplace.

The Johnson County Election Office invites Johnson County elementary and middle school students to participate in a contest to design a sticker to be distributed at polling sites.

[Johnson County Community College's](#) Pay It Forward Student Veteran Scholarship gives you the opportunity to remember the legacy of military veterans. Make a tax-deductible gift to honor a living or deceased family member or loved one from past wars or conflicts and you provide valuable financial

support to the college's student veterans.

[Blue Valley School District](#) Board of Education has appointed Henry Abbott to the [Blue Valley Recreation Commission](#) board.

U.S. News & World Report has named [AdventHealth Shawnee Mission](#) as a 2024 High Performing hospital for Maternity Care.

Chamber members [JE Dunn](#) and [Monarch Build](#) collaborated to build CPKC Stadium, home of the Kansas City Current. CPKC is the first stadium dedicated to women's professional soccer built in the United States.

[Blue Valley Recreation Commission](#) announced an exclusive three-year partnership with [SCHEELS](#). The agreement provides an opportunity for a collaborative effort that encourages the community to understand the importance of health in both mind and body.

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To submit member news, log into your Member Info Hub at www.opchamber.org or contact Hannah at hmelton@opchamber.org.